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# Detection of Prescribed Burn on National Forest

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The Forest Analysis Team has detected the effects of a prescribed burn in the Sam Houston National Forest from ERTS-1 coverage of November 27, 1972. The burn was first identified on aircraft underflight photography of November 7, 1972. On color infrared aircraft photography it appeared as a green patch, indicating stressed vegetation, in an area of red coloration, indicating vigorous vegetation. It was later detected on the color composite of ERTS-1 bands 4, 5 and 7, as a black area in otherwise red vegetation. The fire covering approximately 40 hectares (100 acres), was intentionally started to clear out heavy underbrush so that trees could be marked prior to harvesting. The significance of this observation is that a light burn of this type and its subsequent effects on vegetation could be detected on ERTS-1 imagery. Continued observation of this type of phenomenon under various conditions may provide a means of identifying such an occurrence without a prior knowledge of the event.

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